

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(81) 760 final

Brussels, 1st December 1981

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL

Coordination of Member States' positions with regard to the European
Convention for the protection of animals kept for farming purposes

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Subject : Coordination of Member States' positions with regard to the
European Convention for the protection of animals kept for
farming purposes

A. By Decision 78/923/EEC of 19 June 1978⁽¹⁾, the Council approved the European Convention for the protection of animals kept for farming purposes on behalf of the European Economic Community, since the Convention already contains a number of provisions allowing the Community to become a Contracting Party.

Article 8 of the Convention provides for the setting-up of a Standing Committee responsible for drafting and adopting recommendations to the Contracting Parties for the detailed implementation of the Convention. The Standing Committee has now been set up. The members with voting rights include Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom and Denmark, while the E.E.C. has only observer status.

The Standing Committee plans to draft detailed rules in respect of laying hens, on the basis of a draft recommendation which has been circulated to the Contracting Parties and observers.

On 5 August 1981 the Commission presented the Council with a proposal for a Directive laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens kept in battery cages, which the Council is now examining. It is therefore important to reserve the Community's position until Community rules have been adopted.

B. Consequently, the Commission proposes :

- that the Council agree that the Member States reserve their final positions as regards the drafting of detailed rules on the dimensions of cages and other points covered by the Commission proposal envisaged by the Standing Committee of the European Convention for the protection of animals kept for farming purposes;
- that coordination take place on the spot if necessary.

(1) ON No L323 of 17.11.1978, p. 12.

